

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1412

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 18700

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XG FR EEC UK

SUBJECT: BRITAIN IN THE COMMUNITY: FRENCH HAVE GOOD
POST-REFERENDUM IMPRESSION

1. DURING CALL ON MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR FRANCOIS DE
LABOULAYE JULY 18, DCM ASKED ABOUT GOF IMPRESSIONS OF UK
ATTITUDE TOWARD THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AS DEMONSTRATED AT
EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS JULY 16-18. LABOULAYE SAID
GOF WAS IMPRESSED WITH WILSON'S SINCERITY WHEN HE SAID
UK IS NOW ONE HUNDRED PERCENT EUROPEAN. WHEN IT COMES
TO SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR THE UNIFICATION OF EUROPE, HOW-
EVER, THE UK HAS GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN CONTEMPLATING
FORWARD MOVEMENT AT THE PRESENT TIME. THIS IS TRUE FOR
ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND MONETARY QUESTIONS AS WELL AS FOR
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THE ELECTION OF A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BY UNIVERSAL SUF-

FRAGE. LABOULAYE ADDED THAT THE U.K. IS NOT ALONE IN THE COMMUNITY IN ITS PROBLEM OF ADAPTING ITS OWN PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM TO THE CONCEPT OF A DIRECTLY ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. IN ANY EVENT, THE EC-9 ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THE U.K.'S PRACTICAL PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF UNIFICATION, AND THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS HAVE BEEN MANDATED TO MAKE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS IN TIME FOR THE NEXT EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN ROME IN NOVEMBER.

2. COMMENT: LABOULAYE'S FAVORABLE STATEMENT ABOUT THE UK'S POST-REFERENDUM EUROPEAN VOCATION IS IN STRIKING CONTRAST WITH WHAT THE FRENCH WERE SAYING LAST WINTER. SOME QUAI OFFICIALS WERE OPENLY HOPING THAT THE REFERENDUM RESULT WOULD BE NEGATIVE SO THAT ALLEGED UK OBSTRUCTIONISM WOULD BE ELIMINATED. LABOULAYE WOULD NOT BE EXPRESSING CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM WITHOUT HAVING RECEIVED APPROPRIATE VIBRATIONS AT THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETINGS.

GAMMON

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